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222  
Received & Inspected

MAR 11 2014

FCC Mail Room

March 7, 2014

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am contacting you today regarding a matter of great importance to me and my constituents. It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently issued a notice of dismissal for Hudson County, New Jersey concerning a waiver request to increase the wattage on their Traveler Information Station (TIS). Specifically, the County is seeking to increase the wattage of the local TIS radio station from 10 to 100 watts.

I have been informed that there appears to be no protocol in place for which the County can work with the FCC to increase the size of the station in the future in order to enhance the amount of information transmitted to residents. Being one of the most densely populated and travelled through parts of the country, Hudson County is seeking to increase their reach to residents during times of catastrophic events. Right now the station only reaches 10 percent of the population and, as evident during Superstorm Sandy, when power outages occur for days, residents and travelers look to the local TIS for emergency information. We are concerned that without the ability to reach a wider audience, many residents and travelers will be unprepared during times of disaster.

We respectfully encourage the FCC to work with Hudson County to ensure that the local TIS are able to reach the appropriate audience to guarantee the safety of the public during times of disaster. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

April 11, 2014

Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2310 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Payne:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Hudson County, New Jersey waiver request for their Traveler Information Station (TIS). I understand and share your concern that during times of disaster residents and travelers need access to emergency information.

In general TIS provides a means of communicating certain kinds of information to travelers over low power radio transmitters licensed to local government entities, specifically information designed to reduce traffic congestion and to transmit roads conditions, travel restrictions, and weather forecasts to motorists. The underlying purpose of the rules governing the power level and other restrictions applicable to TIS stations is to avoid causing interference to AM broadcast stations.

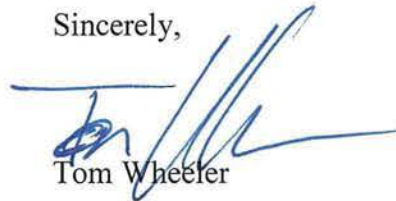
In this specific instance Hudson County requested a waiver of FCC rules to increase the power output of its TIS transmitter to 100 watts. On February 18, 2014, after extensive review and analysis of the record and information submitted by Hudson County, Commission staff denied the waiver request and dismissed the application (a copy of the *Order* is attached). In the *Order*, staff determined that Hudson County failed to show that increasing the TIS station's power by a factor of 10 over the regulatory limit would not cause harmful interference to a planned AM broadcast station in Rockland County, New York and listeners in the affected areas. Staff also found that Hudson County had reasonable alternatives to its proposed "high power" alternative. For instance, Commission rules would not preclude Hudson County from establishing additional transmitters that simulcast identical information over a larger geographic area, so long as the content is directly relevant to travelers in the immediate vicinity of each transmitter.

Hudson County also requested a Special Temporary Authority (STA) to operate its TIS station at greater than 10 watts of power and up to 1100 watts of power in times of declared emergency. Hudson County requests that this STA be granted in advance in anticipation of some future event. However, STAs are germane to circumstances requiring immediate or temporary use of a station. In the event of an actual emergency, Hudson County may then request an STA to operate its station in excess of 10 watts.

Page 2—Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Thank you again for bringing these matters to my attention. I look forward to working with you in the future to promote efforts that ensure that people have access to important information during an emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Wheeler